Private, non-industrial woodland owners who manage their forest land may apply for financial assistance through the Woodland Incentive Program (WIP). WIP is administered by the Department of Natural Resources - Forest Service.

Landowners who own 5 to 1,000 acres of woodland and agree to maintain the forestry practice for 15 years, are eligible to apply for this cost-share program. WIP can pay up to 65 percent of the cost associated with forest management, not to exceed $5,000 per year (or $15,000 per 3-year period). Landowners may not have applied for, received approval for, or be receiving federal cost-share assistance for the same forestry practice for which assistance is sought.

**INTENT OF THE LAW**

The growing demands that are being placed on our woodlands and related land resources cannot totally be met by intensive management of public lands and industrial forests. The General Assembly recognized this growing problem and saw the need for the Woodland Incentive Program. They declared with passage of this law, that it was in the public interest of the State to foster and encourage the development, management, and protection of the nonindustrial private woodlands. These private woodlands provide significant environmental, aesthetic, and wildlife benefits; and provide for the production of timber and forest resources essential to commerce and industry in the State.

**LANDOWNER INCENTIVES**

The Woodland Incentive funds can be applied to such practices as: reforestation of open land, such as abandoned farm fields; reforestation of cutover woodlands; timber stand improvement practices, including thinning, prescribed burning, and other silvicultural treatments; and for preparation of Forest Stewardship Plans.

**SIGN-UP PROCESS**

Landowners may apply for Woodland Incentive assistance through your local DNR forester. The forester reviews the request for sufficiency and submits the application to the State Forester for final approval. Payments are made to the landowner only after the approved practice is completed and the landowner presents a claim for payment along with all bills that were incurred.
WHERE TO GO FOR ASSISTANCE?

For additional information and applications for the WIP and Tax Deduction programs, please contact your nearest forestry office.

Photos:
K.A. King, USFWS, Jack Perdue, MD DNR FS, Tom Eagle, USFWS, and Richard Garrett, MD DNR FS

Forest Service
580 Taylor Avenue
Annapolis
www.dnr.maryland.gov
1-877-620-8DNR x8531

Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr.
Governor

Boyd K. Rutherford
Lt. Governor

Jeannie Haddaway-Riccio, Secretary

Allan Fisher, Asst. Secretary
Bill Anderson, Asst. Secretary

Donald VanHassent, Director

August 2019

The facilities and services of the Department of Natural Resources are available to all without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, age, national origin, physical or mental disability.

This document is available in alternative format upon request from a qualified individual with a disability.